

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 340

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bell School upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary educational institutions that are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable institution is Bell School in Adams, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Bell School has a rich history spanning the last 100 years; the history of the school also tells the history of Adams and, although the school's function has changed over time, it has been and continues to be the center of the Adams community; and

WHEREAS, building of the school began in 1912 and was completed in 1913. Land for the school was donated by Charles Bailey Bell for the sole purpose of educating the citizens of the town of Adams. The school building functioned in this capacity for sixty-two years until it closed in 1975; and

WHEREAS, there was a fire on February 29, 1920, and after much concern from the citizens in the community, the school was rebuilt later that same year, just as it was prior to the fire. There was a gymnasium disjoined from the main building and located on the north side of the building; the gym and cafeteria were later added onto the main school building; and

WHEREAS, the school graduated its first tenth grade class in 1914 and its first four-year graduates in 1916; the first floor was used for elementary grades and the upstairs for high school until 1949; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, grade levels offered at Bell School changed as needs of the Adams-Cedar Hill community changed and Jo Byrns was built; in the latter years, Bell School served as the junior high school, Cedar Hill School as the elementary school, and Jo Byrns as the high school; and

WHEREAS, the school closed in 1975 when all the children moved to Jo Byrns for their education; the City of Adams then exercised inheritance rights and took ownership at that time, with the City Commission deciding to continue using the building as a commercial center; and

WHEREAS, with a grant from the State of Tennessee, the school was renovated in 1977 and became the Bell School Commercial Complex; many businesses and enterprises have called the Bell School home throughout the years, including Adams Antique Mall, Schoolhouse Cafeteria, Bell Witch Opry, and the Adams Museum; and

WHEREAS, presently, the Cafeteria and Tea Room, Adams Salon, Rettamae's Gift Shop, Think Pink! Parties, Adams Academy of the Arts, the Adams Museum, and Adams City Hall are located at the Bell School; the grounds surrounding the old school house hosts a number of activities throughout the year that bring community members and visitors from all over to Adams; and

WHEREAS, Bell School continues to celebrate the rich history of Adams and is building for the future of the Adams community, providing a gathering place for "year-round country fun"; and

WHEREAS, as Bell School celebrates its 100th anniversary, it is appropriate to honor the institution for its rich history as a mainstay in the Adams community; and

WHEREAS, the Bell School is most assuredly worthy of this General Assembly's recognition and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Bell School upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary and extend our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.